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BULGARIAN LAWS ON THE PEOPLE'S SOVIETS
AND ON ELECTING DEPUTIES TO PEOPLE'S SOVIETS

The following report gives the law on the people's soviets; a supplement; an instruction by the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works on the duties of the Local Industry and the Trades Divisions attached to the executive committees of the people's soviets; the law on elections of deputies to people's soviets; an instruction supplement to the law; and an amendment and supplement to the instruction supplement.

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LAW ON PEOPLE'S SOVIETS -- Sofia, Izvestiya, 27 Nov 51

According to Ukase No 572 of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the following "Law on People's Soviets" is now in effect:

General Ordinances

Okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon (precinct), and rural people's soviets are local organs of state power. They are elected by the local population for a 3-year term by universal, equal, and direct secret ballot.

The method of election and the composition of the people's soviets are defined in the election law which follows this ukase.

The city of Sofia forms a separate administrative unit, directly subordinate to the central organs of state power.

Separate administrative units of towns directly subordinate to their respective okrug people's soviets are formed by a ukase of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

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Rayons with rayon people's soviets may be created in towns. The creating or abolishing of rayons and the definition of their borders is done through a ukase of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

In districts containing large villages, separate people's soviets may be created.

The creation and abolition of obshtinas (communities), the separation of villages or other populated places from one obshtina and their assignment to another obshtina, the recognition of a rural obshtina as an urban obshtina or a makhala (hamlet) as a village, and the transfer of an obshtina center or other changes in obshtinas, are effected by a ukase of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Creating and abolishing okrugs and okoliyas and changing their composition are effected through a ukase of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Disagreements about the borders of neighboring obshtinas are settled by the okoliya people's soviet; disagreements about the borders of neighboring obshtinas in different okoliyas in an okrug are settled by the okrug people's soviet; and disagreements about the borders of obshtinas of different okrugs are decided on by the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

A supplement to this law which appears in Izvestiya, 14 March 1952, gives detailed instructions on the settlement of boundary disputes.

Rights and Duties of People's Soviets

People's soviets decide questions of local importance in their territories and carry out orders from the central organs.

Within the framework of their competence, the people's soviets make decisions and issue regulations conforming with the Constitution, with the laws, ukases, and regulations of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, and with the decrees and regulations of the government and those of higher people's soviets.

People's soviets elect commissions for checking the mandates of the deputies of people's soviets, hear the speeches of the commissions, and are in charge of elections; elect executive committees of people's soviets and review their activities; determine what section, units, and services provided for in the present law must be formed, confirm the appointment of their directors, and review their activities; and elect permanent commissions under the people's soviets and review their work.

Okrug, okoliya, urban, and rural people's soviets direct the fulfillment of all economic, health, social, educational, and cultural measures of their territories; work out their economic plan and budget within the framework of the state economic plan and state budget and direct the fulfillment of these; bear and approve the accounting of their executive committees on the realization of the plan and budget; attend to the preservation of public order, the observation of laws, and the defense of citizens' rights; attend to proper administration and direction of state property and enterprises of local importance; cooperate in supervising state property and enterprises of national importance which are located in their territory; direct the activity of executive and private organs subordinate to them; listen to and arbitrate questions of national importance and make recommendations on them to higher organs; and act to strengthen the defense of the country.

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The rayon soviets have the rights of urban people's soviets with the exception of the first duty [i.e., directing the fulfillment of all economic, health, social, educational, and cultural measures of their territories]. They direct the fulfillment of those economic, health, social, educational, and cultural measures and are in charge of those properties in their territory which are placed within their jurisdiction by the decision of the urban people's soviet, by law, or by a ukase of the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

People's soviets in obshtinas elect, from among their deputies, representatives in each village who direct the administrative affairs of the populated places [the people's soviet in an obshtina center includes representatives (pulnomoshtnik) from each village in the obshtina]. In obshtinas where the number of elected deputies is insufficient or where those elected cannot fill the representatives' posts, the voters, summoned to a public meeting, elect representatives who are subject to approval by the people's soviet.

The economic activity of the people's soviets is divided. They manage independent enterprises according to the ukase for state enterprises and other relevant laws, and they manage other properties according to special laws. The people's soviets administer through their executive committees state properties and enterprises of local importance within their territory.

In fulfilling their tasks, the people's soviets must be in touch with political, trade union, and mass organizations. The Sofia Urban People's Soviet and the okrug and okoliya people's soviets must account for their activities at a public meeting at least once a year. The people's soviets in towns which are directly subordinate to their respective okrug people's soviets, as well as urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets, must give an account of their activities at a public meeting of the voters at least twice a year. Those present may ask questions, criticize, or make recommendations about the activities of the people's soviets.

People's soviets are legal persons. Legal actions in the name of the soviet may be taken by the executive committee, except in cases relating to the jurisdiction of the people's soviet exclusively as specified by law. In legal and arbitration disagreements, the people's soviet is represented by the chairman of the executive committee. To certify business in the name of the soviet, an advance decision of the people's soviet or its executive committee is necessary.

The people's soviets can reverse decisions and ordinances of their executive committees and the decisions and ordinances of lower people's soviets and their executive committees.

The Presidium of the People's Assembly has the right to reverse decisions and ordinances of the people's soviets and their executive committees (according to Article 66 of the Constitution).

The government and its separate branches within the framework of their jurisdiction and the executive committees of higher people's soviets can prevent the carrying out of decisions and ordinances of lower people's soviets. The question of revoking or confirming a suspended decision or ordinance is decided by the soviet whose executive committee suspended it or by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, if the suspension was made by the government or its branches.

According to Article 70, Paragraph 1, of the Constitution, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and its higher people's soviets may dissolve lower people's soviets in their territories and set up elections for new soviets. This right may be exercised when a lower people's soviet is not following the

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Constitution or the laws, ukases, or ordinances of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, when it is not fulfilling government ordinances, when it is inactive, or when it is harmful to the interests of the people and the state. Elections for a new soviet must take place within 3 months of the dissolution of the old soviet.

People's soviets form their own rules for internal organization and activity; these rules are approved by a higher people's soviet. The Presidium of the People's Assembly approves the rules of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet and of the okrug people's soviets.

Decisions of the people's soviets are made public.

Sessions, Meetings, and Decisions of People's Soviets

People's soviets are convened for regular sessions by their executive committees. The Sofia Urban People's Soviet and the okrug people's soviets are convened every 3 months; the okoliya and urban people's soviets which are directly subordinate to their respective okrug people's soviets, and the Sofia rayon people's soviets are convened every 2 months; and the urban and rural people's soviets [which are under the jurisdiction of their respective okoliya people's soviets] are convened every month.

People's soviets are convened for extraordinary sessions on the initiative of the executive committees, on the demand of one third of the deputies, or on the order of a higher organ of state power.

The executive committee of the people's soviet announces at least 3 days before the session the day, the place, and the order of business at the meeting. For extraordinary sessions, especially in instances of hurried convocation, the order of business may be announced at the time the invitations to these sessions are issued.

The meetings are considered legal if more than two thirds of the deputies are present. Decisions are made with the usual majority by open voting.

The sessions of the people's soviets are public and are opened by the chairman of the executive committee (in his absence, by his deputy).

The members of the people's soviet take the following oath:

"I swear in the name of the People's Republic of Bulgaria that I will strictly safeguard the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic, that I will conscientiously fulfill the obligations placed upon me, and that I will devote all my efforts to the defense of freedom and independence of the fatherland. I have sworn it."

Permanent Commissions

The people's soviets elect as their auxiliary organs permanent commissions through which they enlist the cooperation of the population in taking part in the practical work of the soviets. The permanent commissions are elected from among the members of the people's soviets and include a chairman and 3-10 members. They seek the cooperation of workers, farmers, artisans, and economic, public, and cultural specialists. The commissions are elected for a term lasting until the mandate of the soviet expires.

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People's soviets, depending on the peculiarities of the obshtina, rayon, okoliya, or okrug, elect the following commissions: finance (finansova), communal economy and public works (komunalnoto stopanstvo i blagoustroystvo), education (nerodnata prosveta), public health and social welfare (narodnoto zdrave i sotsialnata grizhi), agriculture (selskoto stopanstvo), forestry (gorite), local industry and the trades (mestnata industriya i zanayatiye), trade (turgoviyata), supply (prodovolstviye), etc.

The permanent commissions under the people's soviets see that work in their spheres of activity progresses well; bring proposals and questions before the people's soviets and the executive committee for review; see that the decisions of the people's soviets, of executive committees, and of higher state organs are executed; and check within the bounds of their duties the activities of enterprises, institutions, and organizations (learning about the opportunities for further development and improvement of work in the various branches of economic and cultural life).

The suggestions made by the permanent commissions to the executive committee of the people's soviet must be examined within 10 days after they have been submitted. If the permanent commissions do not agree with the decisions of the executive committees, they have the right to submit the question for review by the people's soviet.

The permanent commissions are responsible to the people's soviet for their work, and their members may participate in meetings of the executive committee but may not vote.

Rights and Duties of the Deputies

Deputies to people's soviets have the right to submit for review to the people's soviet and the executive committee any questions which are within the jurisdiction of the people's soviet and the executive committee.

Deputies have the right, in meetings of the people's soviet, to ask questions of the executive committee and the managers (rukovoditel) of the various services of the people's soviet. The managers are required to give a written or oral answer to questions asked in these sessions.

The deputies have the right to seek information from institutions, organizations, and enterprises located within the territory of the people's soviet on questions connected with their activity as deputies. Institutions, organizations, and enterprises must answer questions asked by deputies within 5 days.

Deputies must maintain permanent ties with their electors, must take an active part in the work of the people's soviet, and must carry out the work given them by the soviet and by the permanent commissions. They must regularly explain to the voters and to the population the important decisions of the people's soviet and its executive committees and the ordinances of higher state organs.

Deputies must regularly account to the voters and must keep them informed of the work of the people's soviet and of the deputies' part in the activity.

A deputy who does not justify the faith of the voters, who radically changes the ideas and program on which he was a candidate, or who damages discipline in his party group or organization, may be recalled upon the petition of the organization for which he was a candidate. The decision to recall a deputy is made by agreement of more than half of all the elected deputies of the people's soviet to which he was elected. This decision is approved by a higher people's soviet. The decision of an okrug people's soviet is approved by the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

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The deputies who are not members of the executive committee may participate in its meetings but may not vote. Deputies are not paid for attending meetings. If they live outside the seat of the soviet, any obshtina center, transportation and per diem expenses are paid. They are paid a salary only on meeting days when they work continuously.

Executive Committees of People's Soviets

People's soviets elect from their number executive committees, which are their executive and managing organs. Each committee is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and members.

The executive committee of the okrug people's soviet is composed of not more than 11 members: one chairman, two or three deputy chairmen, one secretary, and from five to seven members.

The executive committee of the okoliya people's soviet in okoliyas with a population up to 40,000 is composed of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and four members. In okoliyas with a population of 40,000 to 80,000, the executive committee is composed of one chairman, two deputy chairmen, one secretary, and five members. In okoliyas with over 80,000 persons, the executive committee is composed of one chairman, three deputy chairmen, one secretary, and six members.

The executive committee of the people's soviet in urban obshtinas (obshtina with a town as its center) having up to 7,000 inhabitants is composed of one chairman, one secretary, and three members; in urban obshtinas with a population of 7,000 to 25,000, the executive committee is composed of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and four members; in urban obshtinas with more than 25,000 inhabitants, the executive committee is composed of one chairman, two deputy chairmen, one secretary, and five members; in the towns of Stalin, Ruse, and Burgas, the executive committee is composed of one chairman, three deputy chairmen, one secretary, and six members. The executive committee of the Plovdiv Urban People's Soviet is composed of one chairman, four deputy chairmen, one secretary, and nine members. The executive committee of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet is composed of one chairman, five deputy chairmen, one secretary, and 10 members. The executive committee of each Sofia rayon people's soviet is composed of one chairman, two deputy chairmen, one secretary, and five members.

The executive committee of the people's soviet in rural obshtinas (obshtina with a village as its center) with a population up to 2,000 is composed of one chairman, one secretary, and one member; in rural obshtinas with a population of 2,000 to 7,000, it is composed of one chairman, one secretary, and three members; and in rural obshtinas with a population of more than 7,000, it is composed of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and four members.

If reasons are given by the Council of Ministers, the Presidium of the People's Assembly can change by a ukase the composition of the executive committees of the okrug, okoliya, and urban people's soviets. If reasons are given by the appropriate okoliya people's soviet, the okrug people's soviet can increase the composition of the executive committees of rural people's soviets.

The executive committee of the people's soviet directs all economic, health, social, educational, and cultural activities of the territory of the people's soviet on the basis of the decisions of the people's soviet and on the basis of decrees and ordinances of higher governmental organs.

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The executive committee of the people's soviet coordinates and directs the work of the divisions, sections, and services attached to it; directs, supports, and controls the enterprises and properties of the people's soviet; directs, supports, and controls the work of the executive committees of lower people's soviets located in the territory of the people's soviet; and receives complaints of citizens in connection with the activity of the organs of administration in its territory, investigates them, and reports findings to the interested executive committees of okrug and okoliya people's soviets within one month (to military authorities and mobilized persons /probably Labor Service authorities/ within 15 days, and to executive committees of urban and rayon people's soviets and of rural people's soviets within 20 and 10 days respectively).

Executive committees of people's soviets make decisions and regulations on the basis of laws, ukases, rulings, decrees, and regulations of the government, of decisions of the soviet, and of all other acts of higher organs.

Executive committees make decisions with the usual majority. The protocols of their meetings are signed by the chairman and the secretary of the executive committee. Regulations of the executive committee bear the signature of the chairman or, in his absence, of the deputy chairman. The chairman directs the meetings of the executive committee. He makes regulations within the framework of the decisions of the soviet and of the executive committee. The chairman and the secretary agree upon the work of the services and exert general control over enterprises and institutions in the territory of the soviet. In the chairman's absence, he is replaced, by written order, by the deputy chairman. If there is no deputy chairman, he is replaced by a member of the executive committee.

A meeting of the executive committee is legal if at least one half of its members are present. The executive committee may invite the chiefs of divisions, sections, and services, and the chairmen of interested institutions and enterprises to participate in its meetings without the right to vote. Prosecutors are invited to participate in meetings of the executive committees.

The Sofia Urban People's Soviet and its executive committee, the okrug and okoliya executive committees and people's soviets, urban executive committees and people's soviets directly subordinate to okrug people's soviets, and rayon executive committees and people's soviets can, in their directives, provide for fines up to 10,000 leva; the remaining urban and rural people's soviets and executive committees can impose fines up to 5,000 leva. The directives are enforceable after they are announced to the population, and are valid for 2 years.

The Council of Ministers and separate ministries, within the bounds of their jurisdiction, and the executive committee of the higher people's soviet may change illegal decisions and regulations of the executive committees of lower people's soviets.

Executive committees of people's soviets perform their duties after the mandate of the soviet expires, until the election of a new executive committee by the newly elected soviet. In the case of a dissolved people's soviet, according to Article 70 of the Constitution, a higher people's soviet or the Presidium of the People's Assembly names a temporary executive committee which acts until the election of a new executive committee by the newly elected people's soviet.

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When new administrative units are created, the Presidium of the People's Assembly names temporary executive committees who exercise the rights and duties of people's soviets until the election of new soviets.

On the basis of Article 70, Paragraph 2, of the Constitution, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the higher people's soviet can relieve of its responsibility the executive committee of a lower people's soviet and can set up elections for a new executive committee.

The newly elected people's soviet is convened by the executive committee of the preceding people's soviet within 10 days after the election.

In case of death or discharge of a member of the executive committee, his place is filled, at the next session of the people's soviet, through a special election. Members of the executive committee receive no salaries unless they work continuously on the committee.

Divisions, Sections, and Services
of the Executive Committees of People's Soviets

The following divisions, sections, and services are created under the executive committees of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet and the okrug and okoliya people's soviets, for the fulfillment of their duties in various phases of administration: cadres, organization and instruction, finance, agriculture, forestry, communal economy and public works, trade, local industry and the trades, public education, construction and roads, public health and social welfare, education and culture, physical culture and sport, planning, and general services.

The following divisions, sections, and services are created under the executive committees of urban people's soviets: cadres, finance, communal economy and public works, trade, local industry and the trades, agriculture, public education, public health and social welfare, education and culture, physical culture and sport, planning, and general services.

On the decision of the people's soviet, depending on local conditions, some of the existing divisions, sections, and services may be abolished and others may be created. Two or more divisions, sections, or services may be combined or placed under one management, with the agreement of the higher people's soviet or the Presidium of the People's Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.

Divisions, sections, and services may be created if needed under a rayon people's soviet, on a decision of the rayon people's soviet in agreement with the urban people's soviet.

The chiefs of the divisions or sections of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet and of the okrug people's soviets are named by the executive committee of the people's soviet concerned, with the concurrence of the appropriate minister, and are confirmed by the people's soviet. The chiefs of sections and services under the executive committees of the okoliya, urban, and rayon people's soviets are named by the executive committee of the people's soviet concerned, with the concurrence of the chief of the appropriate division under the Sofia Urban People's Soviet or okrug people's soviet, and are confirmed by the people's soviet concerned.

All other employees in divisions, sections, and services are named by the executive committees on the basis of a report by the respective chiefs.

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The people's soviet, on the recommendation of the executive committee, divides the managing of the various divisions, sections, and services among the chairman, deputy chairmen, and secretary of the executive committee; each of them is responsible for his work to the people's soviet and the executive committee.

In their work, the divisions, sections, and services are subordinate to the executive committee of the people's soviet which created them, to the appropriate division or section of the higher people's soviet, and to the appropriate ministry or government service.

Following the law is the "Instruction on Preparing and Conducting Sessions of People's Soviets." It covers in detail the following points: "Sessions of the People's Soviets"; "Preparation for Sessions of the People's Soviets" ("Setting Dates and Planning Order of Business"; "Working out Questions on Planning Order of Business"; "Assuring the Presence of Deputies at the Sessions"; and "Assuring the Presence of Citizens at the Sessions"); and "Conducting Sessions of the People's Soviets" (including "Protocols of Sessions of People's Soviets").

There is also the "Instruction for Permanent Commissions Attached to the People's Soviets," which covers the creation of permanent commissions and aktivs of workers. The instruction also includes a section called "Tasks and Work Methods," in which it is stated that permanent commissions finish their work on the basis of 3-month plans approved by the people's soviet and worked out in conjunction with the 3-month plans of the executive committee. The last section in this instruction, which is entitled "Mutual Relationship of Permanent Commissions With People's Soviets, Executive Committees, Enterprises, Institutions and Organizations," states that permanent commissions are organs of people's soviets, not of executive committees, divisions, sections, or services, and that they are not subordinate to permanent commissions of a higher people's soviet.

DUTIES OF LOCAL INDUSTRY AND THE TRADES DIVISIONS OF PEOPLE'S SOVIETS -- Sofia, Izvestiya, 10 Apr 53

The following is the "Instruction on the Duties of the Local Industry and the Trades Divisions Attached to the People's Soviets," issued by the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works.

The Local Industry and the Trades Divisions attached to the executive committees of people's soviets are subordinate to these executive committees, to the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works, and to executive committees and Local Industry and the Trades Divisions of higher people's soviets. These divisions of okrug people's soviets and of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet, in compliance with any legal orders of the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works and of the executive committees of the people's soviets, have the following tasks: to direct, instruct, and control production of local industrial combines and to work out operating plans, which must be submitted to their executive committees; to control the Local Industry and the Trades Divisions, sections, and services of executive committees of okoliya, urban, and rayon people's soviets in their territories; to study the recommendations of the permanent commission on local industry and the trades attached to the okrug people's soviet and to execute the decisions of the people's soviet and its executive committee; and to study the speeches which regional unions of labor production cooperatives make to the executive committees with regard to the planned development of local industry and labor production cooperatives in the okrug.

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A detailed explication of the general tasks of the Local Industry and the Trades Divisions of the okrug people's soviets and of the Sofia Urban People's Soviet (outlined above) follows; it indicates the great extent to which planning and production of local industries are controlled by these organs.

The Local Industry and the Trades Divisions of the executive committees of the okrug people's soviets and the Sofia Urban People's Soviet are divided into the following sectors: organization and inspection (organizatsionno-inspektsionen), production and technical (proizvodstveno-tekhnicheski), planning and economy (planovo-ikononicheski), accounting and finance (schetovodno-finansov), and control and training of cadres (reglamentatsiya i podgotovka na kadri).

The Local Industry and the Trades Divisions of the executive committees of the okrug people's soviets and the Sofia Urban People's Soviet and the deputy chairmen of the executive committees of the respective okoliya or urban people's soviets work with the leaders of local industrial combines on production. The work of the above-mentioned divisions is conducted according to quarterly and monthly plans. The employees work out individual monthly plans. The plans of the division are approved by the deputy chairman of the executive committee in charge of the division; the plans of the sector are approved by the chief of the division; and those of the employees, by the respective leaders of a sector. Employee plans and accounts are sent to the ministry within a specified period.

The staffs of the above-mentioned divisions are indicated in the budget in agreement with the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works, and for the okoliya divisions they are made up in agreement with the Local Industry and the Trades Divisions of the executive committees of the okrug people's soviets. The chiefs of the divisions of the executive committees of the okrug people's soviet are named by the executive committee of the okrug people's soviet, with the approval of the Minister of Communal Economy and Public Works, and are approved by the okrug people's soviet. The chiefs may name employees up to the level of but not including members of the bureau of the chief. Other employees of the divisions are named by the chairman or deputy chairmen of the executive committee of the people's soviet, with the concurrence of the chiefs.

LAW ON ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES TO THE PEOPLE'S SOVIETS -- Sofia, Izvestiya, 23 Nov 51

The following Uruse No 562 gives the "Law on Electing People's Soviets."

Election System

In accordance with Article 2 of the Bulgarian Constitution, people's soviet elections are conducted on the basis of universal, equal, and direct secret ballot.

All citizens of Bulgaria 18 years of age or over, regardless of race, national origin, sex, religious conviction, educational qualification, place of residence, social origin, or property, with the exception of disenfranchised criminals, may participate in elections for people's soviets and may be elected.

All citizens have one vote and participate in elections on an equal basis.

Women participate in elections and may be elected on the same basis as men.

Citizens serving in the armed forces may elect or be elected on the same basis as other citizens.

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Deputies for okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets are elected directly by the citizens through direct ballot.

Deputies are elected through election districts (izbiratelen rayon).

One deputy is elected for each election district in elections for people's soviets.

The holding of elections is financed by the state.

Election Lists (izbiratelen spisuk)

The names of all citizens who have franchise, who live (either permanently or temporarily) in the territory of a given people's soviet at the time an election list is drawn up, including those who will reach the age of 18 years or election day, are entered on the election list.

Each elector may be entered on only one election list.

The names of persons who lose or gain franchise after the election list is drawn up are deleted or added, respectively.

Election lists are drawn up by the executive committees of urban and rural people's soviets. In towns with rayon divisions, the executive committees of rayon people's soviets draw up the lists.

Election lists of military units are drawn up by commanding officers. The names of all employees attached to these units are entered on election lists in their places of residence by the executive committees of their respective people's soviets. When the military units are not at garrison headquarters, the election lists for these employees are drawn up according to their temporary places of residence.

Election lists for persons in the Labor Service (Trvdoua povinnost) their respective chiefs. The names of all employees attached to them are entered on lists in their places of residence by the executive committees of their respective people's soviets. When the Labor Service unit is outside the garrison headquarters, the lists for employees are composed in their temporary places of residence.

Election lists are the same for all people's soviets and are composed for each election section (izbiratelna seksiya) separately, according to the form set up by the Presidium of the People's Assembly (i.e., in alphabetical order, giving the first name, patronymic, and last name, year of birth, address, occupation, and place of residence of the elector and number of the election district). Election lists are signed by the chairman and the secretary of the executive committee of the people's soviet.

Thirty days before an election, the executive committees of people's soviets make election lists public.

The originals of the election lists are kept in the executive committee of the people's soviet, or the military unit, or the Labor Service unit.

Reports, either written or oral, about errors in the election list (omissions, deletions, errors in first names, patronymics, or last names, entry of disenfranchised persons) are submitted to the executive committee of the people's soviet which drew up the list and which must, within 3 days, correct the errors in the election list.

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If the places of residence of voters are changed in the period between the posting of election lists and election day, the executive committee of the people's soviet concerned publishes the changes in the form established by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, entitled "Verification of the Right to Vote Elsewhere," and notes on the election list the word "left" (napusnal). In the new place of residence (either temporary or permanent), the voter is entered on the election list after producing the "Verification" mentioned above and after establishing his identity.

Election Districts and Election Commissions
for the Election of Members of the Okrug People's Soviets

Election districts (Izbitatelen rayon) for electing okrug people's soviets are formed by the executive committees of okrug people's soviets. One election district is formed for each 5,000 inhabitants. There must not be less than 70 or more than 150 election districts /in an okrug/.

The lists of the election districts for electing okrug people's soviets are published by the executive committees of the okrug people's soviets at least 55 days before election day.

An okrug election commission (Izbitatelna komisiya) for electing the okrug people's soviet is formed in each administrative okrug.

The okrug election commission is composed of the chairmen of the following organizations: the Fatherland Front; trade union organizations; cooperative organizations; Communist Party organizations; BENS (Bulgarian People's Agricultural Union) societies; youth organizations; cultural, technical, and scientific organizations; other public workers' organizations and societies registered according to the established law; assemblies of workers and employees of enterprises and institutions; assemblies of employees of military units; assemblies of farmers from the TKZS (labor cooperative farms) and villages /private farmers?/; and assemblies of workers and employees of DZS (state farms).

The okrug election commission consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 8-10 members. It is approved by the Presidium of the People's Assembly not later than 55 days before election day.

The okrug election commission supervises the territory of the okrug to see that the present law on electing people's soviets is carried out; reviews complaints about incorrect actions of election commissions and makes final decisions on these complaints; prepares, according to the form established by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the ballots (izbitatelen byuletin) for electing the okrug people's soviet; registers those who are elected in the okrug people's soviet; and gives the election papers to the mandate commission (mandatna komisiya) of the okrug people's soviet.

The organizational framework and duties of lower-echelon election commissions (i.e., district (rayonna), okoliya, urban, rayon, rural, and section election commissions) are similar to those of the okrug election commission.

A district election commission (rayonna izbitatelna komisiya) is formed in each election district before the elections for the okrug people's soviet.

The district election commission for electing the okrug people's soviet consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 4-6 members, and is approved by the executive committee of the okrug people's soviet at least 50 days before election day.

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Election Districts and Election Commissions
for the Election of Okoliya People's Soviets

Election districts for electing okoliya people's soviets are formed by the executive committees of the okoliya people's soviets.

One election district is formed for each 1,000 inhabitants. There cannot be fewer than 25 or more than 80 election districts in each okoliya.

The lists of the election districts for electing the okoliya people's soviets are published by the executive committees of the okoliya people's soviets not later than 55 days before election day.

An okoliya election commission for electing the okoliya people's soviet is formed in each okoliya.

The okoliya election commission consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 4-6 members, and is approved by the executive committee of the okrug people's soviet not later than 55 days before election day.

A district election commission is formed in each election district for electing okoliya people's soviets.

The district election commission for electing the okoliya people's soviets consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 2-4 members, and is approved by the executive committee of the okoliya people's soviet not later than 50 days before election day.

Election Districts and Election Commissions
for the Election of Urban and Rayon People's Soviets

Election districts for electing urban and rayon people's soviets are formed by the executive committees of the urban and rayon people's soviets respectively.

The election districts are formed according to the following norms:

- (a) In towns with a population up to 2,000, there are 21 election districts.
- (b) In towns with a population between 2,000 and 5,000, an election district is formed for each 100 inhabitants, but the number of election districts cannot exceed 35.
- (c) In towns with 5,000 to 10,000 persons, one election district is formed for each 150 persons. The number of districts must not exceed 50.
- (d) In towns with 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants, an election district is formed for each 250 inhabitants. The number of districts must not exceed 55.
- (e) In towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants, an election district is formed for each 300 inhabitants, but the number of districts must not exceed 101.
- (f) In Plovdiv, there is one election district for each 1,000 inhabitants.
- (g) In Sofia, there is one election district for each 2,000 inhabitants.
- (h) In rayons of towns, one election district is formed for each 1,000 inhabitants, but the number of districts must not be less than 25.

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The lists of the election districts for electing urban and rayon people's soviets are published by the executive committees of the urban and rayon people's soviets no later than 55 days before election day.

In each town and rayon of a town, urban and rayon election commissions for the election of urban and rayon people's soviets, respectively, are formed.

The urban and rayon election commissions consist of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 6-10 members, and are approved, at least 55 days before election day, as follows: the urban election commissions in cities responsible to the Republic [this applies only to Sofia, whose urban people's soviet is on the same level as okrug people's soviets] are approved by the Presidium of the People's Assembly; the urban election commissions in towns which are under okrug jurisdiction are approved by the executive committees of the okrug people's soviets; the urban election commissions in the remaining towns are approved by the executive committees of the okoliya people's soviets; and the rayon election commissions are approved by the executive committees of the urban people's soviets.

A district election commission is formed in each election district for elections to the urban or rayon people's soviet.

The district election commission for elections to the urban and rayon people's soviets consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 2-4 members, and is approved by the executive committee of the urban or rayon people's soviet at least 50 days before election day.

Election Districts and Election Commissions for Electing Rural People's Soviets

Election districts for electing rural (selski) people's soviets are formed by the executive committees of rural people's soviets.

An election district is formed for each 100 inhabitants, but the number of election districts must not be less than 11 or more than 35.

The lists for the election districts for electing rural people's soviets are published by the executive committees of the rural people's soviets at least 55 days before election day.

A rural election commission for electing rural people's soviets is formed in [the election district of] each rural people's soviet.

The rural election commission consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 2-4 members, and is approved by the executive committee of the rural people's soviet at least 55 days before election day.

A district election commission is formed in each election district for elections to the rural people's soviet.

The district election commission for elections to the rural people's soviet consists of one chairman, one secretary, and one member, and is approved by the executive committee of the rural people's soviet at least 50 days before election day.

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CONFIDENTIALElection Sections and Section Election Commissions

The territories of the towns and villages are divided into election sections for elections to the okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets, for the purpose of receiving ballots and counting votes.

The formation of the election sections and the assignment of consecutive numbers to them is done by the executive committees of the urban people's soviets. In towns which include rayons, it is done by the executive committees of the rayon people's soviets, and in villages, it is done by the executive committees of the okoliya people's soviets. The formation of the election sections must be completed at least 45 days before election day.

An election section is formed in each populated place having up to 1,000 persons. If there are more than 500 inhabitants left over, a separate section is formed. If there are less than 500 inhabitants left over, they are divided among the other sections. The executive committee of the okoliya people's soviet has the right to form sections with less than 1,000 or more than 1,500 inhabitants.

Military units form separate election sections, if they number more than 50 and less than 1,000 persons. The same applies to Labor Service units.

In hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoriums, and rest homes with at least 50 persons, separate election sections are formed. In hospitals with several buildings, election sections may be formed in each building containing more than 50 persons.

On steamships afloat on election day, with at least 25 voters, separate election sections forming part of the election district of the place where the steamship is registered may be formed.

In each election section, a section election commission is formed to elect okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets.

The section election commission consists of one chairman, one deputy chairman, one secretary, and 4-8 members. In election sections numbering less than 300 persons, it consists of one chairman, one secretary, and 1-3 members. In towns, it is confirmed by the executive committees of urban people's soviets; in towns with a rayon division, it is confirmed by executive committees of rayon people's soviets; and in villages, it is confirmed by the executive committees of rural people's soviets. The commission is confirmed at least 40 days before election day.

Order of Nominating Candidates
for Deputies to the People's Soviets

The candidates for deputies to the people's soviets are nominated according to the election districts.

The Fatherland Front, workers' organizations and societies, Communist Party organizations, BEMS societies, trade union and cooperative and youth organizations, and cultural societies have the right to nominate candidates for deputies to the okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets.

The right to nominate candidates for deputies to people's soviets is granted by the central organs of general workers' societies and organizations, by their lower echelons, by general meetings of workers and employees of enterprises and institutions, by general meetings of members of military units, by general meetings of TKMS and private farmers, and by meetings of workers and employees on DES.

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A candidate for deputy can be nominated only in one election district of the same people's soviet.

Members of district and section election commissions may not be nominated as candidates for deputies in the same election district in which they are serving on commissions.

Persons holding fascist or other antipeople beliefs cannot be nominated as candidates.

A party or general political organization which has nominated candidates of the Fatherland Front for deputies to a given people's soviet cannot nominate other candidates for the same people's soviet.

The leadership of the Fatherland Front and other parties cannot nominate more than one candidate for deputy in any one election district.

All general workers' organizations and societies which have nominated candidates for deputies of okrug and okoliya people's soviets must register their candidates at the appropriate district election commission at least 30 days before election day.

All general workers' organizations and societies which have nominated candidates for deputies to urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets must register their candidates at the appropriate people's soviet at least 20 days before election day.

General workers' organizations and societies which have nominated candidates for deputies to the people's soviets must present the following documents to the election commission when registering candidates: a protocol of the meeting at which the candidate for deputy was nominated, signed by the members of the bureau with their places of residence indicated (the protocol must show the proper name of the organization nominating the candidate, the place, time, and number of persons participating in the meeting, the first name, patronymic, and last name of the candidate, his age, place of residence, party affiliation, and occupation); and a report by the candidate for deputy, stating his agreement to be elected in a given election district in the name of the organization nominating him.

The district election commission must register all candidates for deputies, nominated by general organizations and societies, in accordance with the Constitution and the present law.

The section election commission draws up a protocol on the registration for each candidate for deputy, according to the form established by the Presidium of the People's Assembly. One copy of the registration protocol is sent immediately to the okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, or rural election commission concerned, together with a report from the candidate agreeing to his candidacy in a given election district.

The refusal of the district election commission to register candidates for okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets may be appealed during a 2-month period to the appropriate okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, or rural election commission, whose decision is final.

The first name, patronymic, and last name, age, occupation, and party affiliation of each registered candidate for deputy in the okrug or okoliya people's soviet and the name of the general organization nominating him are announced by the district election commission at least 25 days before election day.

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The names of candidates for deputies to the urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets given for registration by the district election commission are announced by the urban, rayon, or rural election commission at least 15 days before election day.

All names of registered candidates for deputies must be printed on the ballots.

District election commissions for electing deputies to okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon, and rural people's soviets must send the ballots to all section election commissions at least 10 days before election day.

Ballots are to be printed, according to the form established by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, in a number large enough to cover the number of voters.

Any organization which has nominated and registered a candidate with its district election commission and any citizen have the right to free agitation for the candidate in meetings, press, or other mediums.

Election Day

Elections for okrug, okoliya, urban, rayon and rural people's soviets are held for one day throughout Bulgaria.

Election day is established by the Presidium of the People's Assembly at least 2 months before the election. Elections are held on a nonworkday.

During the 15-day period immediately preceding the elections, the section election commissions daily announce to the voters, through the press or other mediums, the day and place of elections.

Voting Order

Voters can cast votes from 0700 hours to 1800 hours (or, if not all voters have voted, until 1900 hours).

At 0700 hours on election day, the chairman of the section election commission, in the presence of the members of the commission, checks the ballot boxes and the election list, after which the boxes are closed and sealed with the seal of the local people's soviet and voting may begin.

Voters may fill out their ballots in separate booths or rooms in the polling place. Except for members of the election commission, only the voters may be in these rooms while filling out their ballots.

Each voter who is not incapacitated, must come to the polling place to fill out his ballot personally.

If a voter is not known by the secretary or officiating member of the section election commission, he shows a personal identity card, a passport, a work book, a trade union membership card, or other document to establish his identity; and after the election list is checked, he is given a ballot.

At the polling place, the voter leaves on the ballot only the name of the candidate for whom he votes, crossing out the names of the other candidates.

A voter who cannot fill out the ballot himself because he has a physical handicap or is illiterate may send to the polling place another voter to fill out his ballot.

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Election agitation at the polling place during voting hours is prohibited.

Voters coming to the polling place with the document "Verification of the Right to Vote Elsewhere," according to the present law, are entered by the section election commission on a separate election list, which is signed by the chairman and the secretary of the section election commission. The chairman of the section election commission is responsible for order in the polling place.

On election day at 1800 or 1900 hours, as the case may be, the chairman of the section election commission ends the voting and the ballot boxes are opened.

Election results are established and reported in a similar way to those for elections to the People's Assembly.

INSTRUCTION SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAW ON ELECTING PEOPLE'S SOVIETS -- Sofia, Izvestiya, 15 Jan 52

The "Instruction Supplement to the Law on Electing People's Soviets" gives detailed instructions on election methods. At the beginning, it explains the following changes:

Deputies for people's soviets are elected through election districts; only one deputy may be elected in any district. The deputies are not elected on the basis of election papers (izbiratelen list) as before.

This change was made in order to allow the voters in a given district to know their elected deputy, to whom they may appeal in case of need. It was also made so that the elected deputy could know his election district and his voters, so that he could maintain closer contact with them and know their needs, and so that he could account to the people through the people's soviet.

The following titles and subtitles indicate the scope of the instruction: "The Work of the Executive Committees of People's Soviets Throughout Elections"; "Formation of Election Districts"; "Formation of Election Sections"; "Formation of Election Lists"; "Preparation of the Schedule of Events (Kalendaren Plan) and of Technical Equipment for Elections"; "Election Activities of Election Commissions" ("Formation of Election Commissions"; "Okrug, Okoliya, Urban, Rayon, and Rural Election Commissions"; "District Election Commission"; "Section Election Commission"); and "The Work of General Organizations During Elections."

The end of the instruction consists of facsimiles of the formats of the 14 forms used in connection with elections, as follows: "The Election List"; "Verification of the Right to Vote Elsewhere"; "The Okrug Ballot"; "The Okoliya Ballot"; "The Urban Ballot"; "The Rayon Ballot"; "The Rural Ballot"; "Protocol of the District Election Commissions for Registering Candidates for Deputies of People's Soviets"; "Protocol for voting Established by the Section Election Commission"; "Protocol for Voting Established by the District Election Commission"; "Verification for the Elected Deputy"; "Report to the District Election Commission"; "Declaration by Voter of Noncriminal Record"; and "Telegram or Letter to People's Soviet About Deletion of Name from Election list."

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AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENT TO THE INSTRUCTION SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAW ON ELECTING PEOPLE'S SOVIETS -- Sofia, Izvestiya, 5 Sep 52

The following are an amendment and a supplement to the "Instruction Supplement to the Law on Electing People's Soviets:"

The inhabitants of the city of Sofia participate in the elections for the Sofia Okrug People's Soviet.

The inhabitants of the areas of urban people's soviets which are directly subordinate to their okrug people's soviets participate in the elections for their okoliya people's soviets.

For example, Kyustendil Okoliya, excluding the town of Kyustendil, has 76,946 inhabitants. In the formation of election districts for the Kyustendil Okoliya People's Soviet, the population figure for the town of Kyustendil (21,713), whose urban people's soviet is directly subordinate to the Sofia Okrug People's Soviet, is added to the okoliya population figure. The total number of 98,659 is distributed among the 80 election districts for the okoliya, including the population and territory of the town, so that the election divisor of 1,233 is obtained. The number of inhabitants of the town (21,713) is divided by the divisor (1,233) to get the number of election districts of the town. In this case, there are 17, and the remaining 63 will be the election districts for the okoliya (80 election districts in all).

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